

REMARKS

Claims 36-71 and 137-139 remain in this application. Claims 72-136 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 36, 41, 43, 49, and 62-64 have been amended. Claims 137-139 have been added. The amended and added claims are supported by the specification and no new matter has been added. The Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

37 C.F.R. §1.66 or 1.68

The Examiner has stated that the application is not in conformance with 37 C.F. R. §1.66 or 1.68 since no declaration is present. The Applicant traverses this objection by presenting a copy of the declaration executed by the inventor Paul H. Glad on January 11, 2001. The declaration was mailed to the Commissioner of Patents on January 29, 2001 along with the Response To Notice To File Missing Parts Of Application.

35 U.S.C. §121 Restriction

The Examiner has required the Applicant under 35 U.S.C. 121 to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable.

In response to the Examiner's requirement, the Applicant hereby elects, without traverse, to prosecute the patentably distinct species of the invention represented in Figures 21 and 21A. Applicant makes this election without prejudice to the right to prosecute one or more of the non-elected species in a later filed application.

Claims 36-71 are believed to be readable on the elected species represented in Figures 21 and 21A. Additionally, at least claims 36, 41, 62, and 64 are believed to be generic claims for a number of other patentably distinct species, such as the species represented in Figures 28, 30, 34, and 35.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that all claims now pending patentably define the subject invention over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests that the claims be allowed at the earliest possible date.

Request For Telephone Interview

The Examiner is invited to call Brent E. Vecchia at (303) 740-1980 if there remains any issue with allowance of the case.

Request For An Extension Of Time

The Applicant(s) respectfully petitions for an extension of time to respond to the outstanding Office Action pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) should one be necessary. Please charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666 to cover the necessary fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17 for such an extension.

Charge Our Deposit Account

Please charge any shortage to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,
BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

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